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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 00457 052332Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CIAE-00	SJK-01	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	FBO-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00
	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01	SR-01
	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSS-00

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R 052332Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2599
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 000457

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, PA, VE
SUBJECT: PARAGUAY REPUDIATES VENEZUELAN COUP
ATTEMPT

1. (U) THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONDEMNED THE
ATTEMPTED MILITARY COUP IN VENEZUELA. PRESIDENT

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 00457 052332Z
RODRIGUEZ GAVE HIS FULL SUPPORT TO THE RIO GROUP
DECLARATION ON THE COUP FOLLOWING A TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION WITH COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT CESAR GAVIRIA.
RODRIGUEZ ALSO SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ EXPRESSING HIS ADMIRATION AND
FRIENDSHIP FOR CAP AND SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELA'S
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

2. (U) DOMINGO LAINO, DE FACTO LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION LIBERAL PARTY, SENT PRESIDENT PEREZ A
TELEGRAM DECLARING HIS SOLIDARITY WITH THE VENEZUELAN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 21 JUL 2006 200503206

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PEOPLE AND REPUDIATING THE COU ATTEMPT.

3. (U) ADDITIONALLY, THE NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, MEETING TO DRAFT A NEW PARAGUAYAN CONSTITUTION, ISSUED A DECLARATION CONDEMNING THE COUP. THE CONSTITUTENT ASSEMBLY'S STATEMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE LEADERS OF ALL PARTY BLOCS. THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENT ALSO ISSUED A DECLARATION OF CONDEMNATION.

4. (C) COMMENT: THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AND ITS RELATION TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN THE FOCUS OF RECENT DEBATE IN PARAGUAY'S CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. THE VENEZUELAN COUP ATTEMPT OCCURRED ONE DAY AFTER THE DRAFTING SUBCOMMITTEE IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY REJECTED A MILITARY-SPONSORED PROPOSAL TO ALLOW THE PRESIDENT TO DELEGATE HIS AUTHORITY AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES TO A GENERAL OFFICER. OUR CONTACTS TELL US THE ISSUE IS NOT FINALLY SETTLED AND WILL LIKELY

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PAGE 03 ASUNCI 00457 052332Z
BE RAISED AGAIN IN PLENARY DEBATE BY THOSE SYMPATHETIC TO THE MILITARY'S POSITION, BUT THE EVENTS VENEZUELA MAY HELP SWING SUPPORT TO THOSE PRESSING FOR INSTITUTIONALIZED CIVILIAN CONTROL OF THE ARMED FORCES.

RANNEBERGER

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